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NEW SET OF CLAIMS

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1. Process for the racemisation of an enantiomerically enriched α -amino nitrile characterized in that the enantiomerically enriched α -amino nitrile is contacted with a Lewis acid catalyst in an aprotic solvent.
2. Process according to claim 1, wherein the Lewis acid catalyst comprises a metal chosen from main group elements IA-IVA of the Periodic Table (CAS version), the transition metals and the lanthanides.
3. Process according to claim 2 wherein the metal is chosen from the group consisting of Al, Ti, Zr, or lanthanides.
4. Process according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein a catalyst with the general structure $M_nX_pS_qL_r$ is used, wherein M represents the metal, X represents an anionic counterion or covalently bound anionic ligand for non zero valent metals, S represents a spectator ligand, L represents a neutral ligand, n represents an integer larger than or equal to 1 and p, q and r each independently represent an integer larger than or equal to 0, and in which n and p are chosen such that M_nX_p is neutral.
5. Process according to claim 4, wherein the catalyst is chosen from the group of aluminum alkoxides, aluminum alkyls, lanthanide alkoxydes and lanthanocenes.
6. Process according to any one of claims 1-5, wherein the racemisation is performed in combination with a resolution process.
7. Process according to claim 6, wherein the racemisation is performed in combination with an enzymatic resolution process.
8. Process according to claim 6, wherein the racemisation is performed in combination with a crystallization induced resolution.
9. Process according to any one of claims 6-8, wherein the resolution process is combined with racemisation in situ.
10. Process according to claim 9, wherein the racemisation is performed in situ in a crystallization induced asymmetric transformation process.

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